

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 4 at Line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 shows a partial rear-end view 300 of a truck having a tailgate 302 in the open position. Figure 3 also illustrates the truck bed 304, the rear bumper 306, a rear taillight 308, the left-side sidewall 310 of the truck, a hole 312 in the sidewall 310, a hole 316 in the tailgate 302, and the tailgate rod 314 (also referred to as the tailgate pin). Tailgate rods are known in the art. During the opening and closing of a typical tailgate, the tailgate rotates or pivots about a tailgate axis that is aligned with the rod or rods (as is known in the art). Additionally, some tailgate assemblies may not comprise a rod that attaches to the sidewall, but may comprise a hinge-like mechanism positioned near the center of the tailgate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 6 at Line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 shows a partial rear-end view 400 of the truck shown in Figure 3 having a torsion spring 402 positioned in accordance with the present invention. The torsion spring 402 is positioned such that the torsion spring 402 coils around the tailgate rod 314. Accordingly, the tailgate axis of the tailgate 302 is substantially aligned with the tailgate rod 314. The torsion spring 402 in Figure 4 is a right-handed torsion spring. The first leg of the torsion spring 402 is removably attached to the left-side sidewall 310. That is, the left-side sidewall 310 is the tailgate support. For purposes of the present invention, the tailgate support is any structure that the first leg of a torsion spring can be attached to such that the first leg remains substantially stationary as the second leg (attached to the tailgate) is deflected in a winding direction. In Figure 4, the first leg of the torsion spring 402 has been removably attached to the left-side sidewall 310 (that is, the tailgate support) by inserting the foot 404 of the first leg of the torsion spring 402 into the hole 312 in the left-side sidewall 310. Similarly, the second leg of the torsion spring 402 is removably attached to the tailgate 302 by inserting the foot (not shown) of the second leg into the hole 316 (not shown in Figure 4) in the tailgate 302.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the brief drawing description on Figure 3 on page 2 should apparently be amended to delete reference to

“according to the prior art” as the device shown in Figure 3 has been modified from the prior art-note additional of drilled holes 312 and 316. Note also Figure 3 is not labeled as “prior art”. Applicant thanks Examiner for this suggestion and hereby requests the following amendment to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2 at Line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows a partial rear-end view of a truck tailgate assembly ~~according to the prior art.~~